

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-11 and 18-29 are pending in the application.

Claims 20-29 are added to the application. Basis for these claims may be found in the original claims, specification and drawings, e.g., Claims 1-4 and the Specification on Page 9, lines 6-9, Page 12, lines 25-29; and Page 24, lines 25-28. No new matter has been added. The newly added claims cover additional embodiments of the disclosed invention with particular respect to the position and size of the film laminated to the bag.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended and Claims 12-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reexamination and Reconsideration of the rejections and objections are requested.

The Objection To The Abstract

Upon entry of the Amendment, the Abstract has been amended for brevity and to correct typographical errors to address the objection. The Title has also been amended to better conform to the claimed invention.

The § 112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-11 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states the grounds for the rejection thusly:

The expression "wherein said patch film has a total energy absorption of at least 1.2 Joule through a patch covered bag area" is indefinite, as follows:

A. Is the test employed to measure total energy absorption (TEA) a standard one? If so, (1) the name/designation of the should be stated in the claims and (2) data that shows that it was designated for testing TEA prior to the application's filing should be submitted.

B. What film(s) were tested? Note that the phrase quoted refers to the TEA for both the patch and the patch/bag combination.

Please clarify the claims.

(Official Action dated October 15, 2002).

The indefiniteness rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Regarding point B, Claim 1 is herewith amended in the penultimate line by correcting "patch films" to read "patch bags" thereby providing proper agreement with the subsequent reference to "patch covered bag area." It should now be clear that the test is conducted through the combined patch film and attached bag wall.

Referring to point A, it should be noted that the test employed is not an ASTM standard test. The novel films of the present invention have puncture resistance values which are exceptionally good. Traditional standard puncture tests are inadequate to quantify the puncture resistance of these films. Use of standard test methods and apparatus, which cannot puncture the film, do not permit evaluation of relative puncture resistance characteristics of highly puncture resistant films. Therefore, the specification discloses and describes an apparatus and methodology which was developed to be capable of puncturing the inventive film and measuring the total energy absorbed in the process.

The claims, as written, meet the requirements of § 112 by particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the total energy absorption property by a named test which is described and enabled by the specification and drawings.

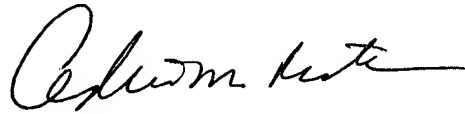
Reexamination and reconsideration of the application and claims are requested. It is believed that the claims are now in condition for allowance, which is earnestly requested. If the Examiner has concerns or questions, a telephone interview is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fee

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required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 502023.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cedric M. Richeson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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